Keeping in Touch

News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 464-5100.

OCTOBER, 1990

AUGUST, 1990
Top 20 Tithes

1.	MCC Dallas	Dallas, TX	$3,082.07
2.	MCC Washington	Washington, DC	2.021.06
3.	Church/Holy Spirit MCC	Ft Lauderdale, FL	1,967.10
4.	MCC Toronto	Ontario, CAN	1,758.54
5.	MCC San Francisco	San Francisco, CA	1,418.70
6.	MCC of the Resurrection	Houston, TX	1,360.38
7.	MCC Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	1,327.70
8.	King of Peace MCC	St. Petersburg, FL	1,190.54
9.	MCC San Diego	San Diego, CA	1,185.84
10.	MCC in the Valley	N. Hollywood, CA	1,071.75
11.	First MCC of Kansas	Wichita, KS	943.52
12.	Agape MCC of Ft. Worth	Ft. Worth, TX	849.98
13.	River City MCC	Sacramento, CA	823.80
14.	MCC New York	New York City, NY	682.41
15.	St. Luke's MCC	Jacksonville, FL	662.51
16.	Church of the Trinity MCC	Sarasota, FL	636.57
17.	Joy MCC	Orlando, FL	623.63
18.	MCC Tampa	Tampa, FL	593.29
19.	MCC Austin	Austin, TX	559.16
20.	MCC Key West	Key West, FL	547.46

AUGUST, 1990
Top 20 Per Capita

1.	MCC Brooklyn	Brooklyn, NY	42.75
2.	MCC of Huntsville	Huntsville, AL	35.15
3.	New Life MCC	Berkeley, CA	32.00
4.	Church/Resurrection MCC	Chicago, IL	27.16
5.	Good Samaritan MCC	Whittier, CA	26.03
6.	MCC of Northern Virginia	Oakton, VA	25.18
7.	MCC of the Desert	Cathedral City, CA	24.70
8.	MCC Hartford	Hartford, CT	24.20
9.	MCC of the Spirit	Harrisburg, PA	21.54
10.	MCC Gentle Shepherd	Vancouver, WA	21.21
11.	MCC New York	New York City, NY	20.02
12.	MCC Mt. Vernon	Mt. Vernon, WA	19.29
13.	MCC Rockville	Rockville, MD	19.14
14.	MCC Washington	Washington, DC	18.75
15.	Resurrection Chapel MCC	Torrance, CA	18.24
16.	MCC Toronto	Ontario, CAN	18.15
17.	Open Arms MCC	Rochester, NY	18.11
18.	Church of the Trinity MCC	Sarasota, FL	17.83
19.	Christos MCC	Toronto, Ontario, CAN	17.77
20.	Whitewater Valley MCC	Richmond, IN	17.13

PRAISES

MCC Calgary, Alberta, Canada is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev'd George Millard as their Pastor. Rev'd Millard was ordained by the United Church of Canada in 1957 and served with the United Church for 31 years. He will be working as pastor of MCC Calgary on a half time basis. Rev'd Millard will carry on with his duties as Director of Pastoral Care at the Glenmore Park Auxillary Hospital and as Secretary of the Calgary Presbytery of the United Church of Canada. Congratulations, MCC Calgary and Rev'd Millard.

Congratulations to Rev'd David Depee of Holy Covenant MCC, Hinsdale, IL, who was appointed by the State's Attorney to serve on a Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Issues, concerning treatment by law enforcement agencies, and has been named an honorary member of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Praise God - The World Council of Churches has invited UFMCC to be represented at the Seventh Assembly and has given UFMCC official observer status for that Assembly. Many doors are being open, and your prayers of support are needed so that ears will be open to hear what we have to tell of God's love for us.

HALLELUJAH!! Rev. Elder Troy Perry's new book, "Don't Be Afraid Anymore" is available this month just in time to celebrate the 22nd Anniversary of UFMCC. Rev. Perry's new book, which he wrote with Thomas Swicegood, can be ordered through UFMCC Church Services Department at a 20% discount, and any UFMCC Churches ordering 5 or more copies will be given a 40% discount. Enclosed is a flyer and order form announcing this new book.

PRAYERS

Please keep the General Council in your prayers as they meet from October 2-9, at the Holiday Inn in Los Angeles, California. There will be an update of this meeting in the November issue of Keeping In Touch.

Remember to keep all your Brothers and Sisters in your prayers from all over the world.

Please keep Rev. Elder Freda Smith, Mary Smith, in your prayers as she is in critical condition at a Sacramento Hospital.

New Form of Ministry

Diablo Valley MCC of Concord, CA has broken new ground again by establishing a 24-hour computer access ministry based in Concord. Their computer bulletin board service (BBS) plans to be the area's prime resource for home computer users with questions and comments about AIDS, Bible and Homosexuality, religion and other personal esteem issues.

Calling (415) 827-0804 connects you with the new BBS, named "Breaking Walls; Building Bridges". Set your computer/modem protocol to 300-, 1200-, or 2400-baud, 8-bit, No-parity, 1-stop bit and dial (415) 827-0804. Log on, using a false name, and follow the familiar BBS paths and menus for bulletins and open forums. You won't find any program or games because this BBS is a people oriented ministry. On-screen help is readily available by entering the "?" key.

"Breaking Walls; Building Bridges" intends to live up to its name by piercing any barriers of age, gender, ability, or status that may stand between the church and the people it serves. The BBS method was selected for this ministry to provide home computer users free access without constraints of time, family, etc, and also maintain total confidentiality and anonymity for messages to counselors.

Conference For Pastors of Large Churches

The next Conference for Pastors of Large Churches will be held April 10-16, 1991 in Southern California.

The criteria for being in this group are:

1) Your church average 250 in attendance on Sunday
2) That your church is within the Top 20 Tithes for the past 6 months.
3) Senior Pastors supervising a multiple staff

For more information please contact Rev. Dusty Pruitt, MCC Long Beach, CA at (213) 432-3641.

Fifty Members Received at 15th Service

Going and growing is the only way to describe what is happening at the Church of Our Savior MCC in Boca Raton, Florida. Although the Church is only 15 weeks old, 50 members were received at a special Service of Dedication and Committment, conducted by the District Coordinator, Rev. Tom Bigelow. Other honored guests included Rev. Grant Lynn Ford of the Church of the Holy Spirit MCC and the Rev. Julia Seward of the Church of the Palm Beaches MCC. The Church now has an average attendance of 90, a choir of 10, four CARE groups (40 participants) and a Lay Ministers program that involves 15.

The Rev. John Jacobs, when asked what he attributed to the new churches success, commented, "First, we have received incredible help from Rev. Ford and the Church of the Holy Spirit MCC, and second, we built a foundation on "CARE" groups. Next, "positiveness", success is what is preached and what is felt when one enters our sanctuary and finally, and of the most importance is the very presence of God in all we do."

If you would like to contact Church of Our Savior MCC you can do so at: 4770 N.W. 2nd Ave., Suite C, Boca Raton, FL or call them at (407) 998-0454.

The Closet Christian

(The following article was sent to us by Rev. Ian Westby of MCC of Southampton, England and the article was written by a young man of his early 20's.)

Over the past couple of years I have spent a lot of time and effort in an attempt to liberate myself from the sort of prejudices we all learn in the course of life.

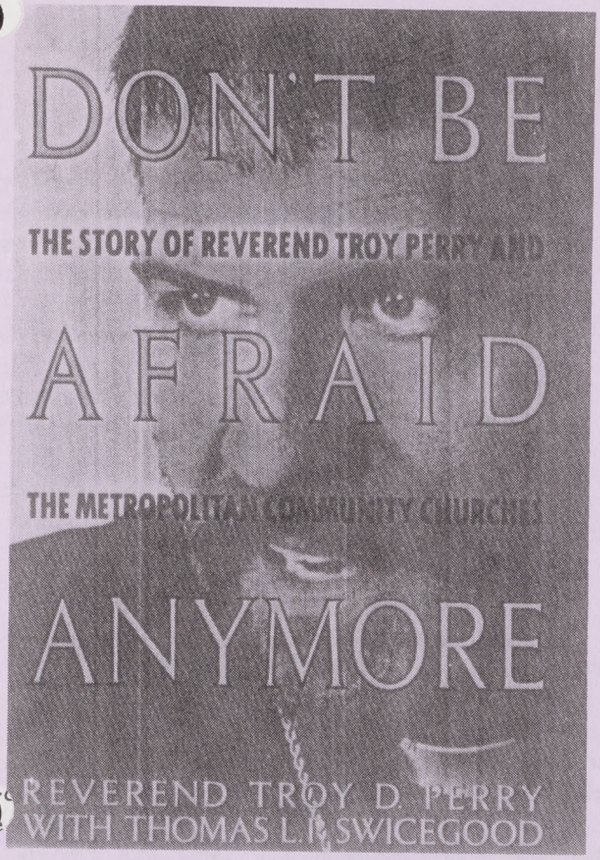
Having obtained "A level guilt" during a strict Catholic schooling and being thoroughly confused about my sexuality by both my hormones and society, I felt it was time for a change. I had faced the horror of "coming out" several years before, but this was different - this was going to mean rethinking a way of life. The truth I was being forced to come to terms with was a simple yet fundamental one.

I really do have a faith!

The reality of that statement knocked my socks off! I had never really thought of a church service as anything more than a piece of theatre which, although serving a purpose, was in itself unnecessary.

Attending a meeting of the MCC was to change all that! I have never felt so welcomed to a place in my life before. Everyone present seemed genuinely pleased to see me. This was to be a celebration; a caring feeling of warmth filled the room as we joined in our expression of faith. This is the reality of worship, a family who finds strength in their faith. I finally feel that I can bring my faith "out of the closet"- Thank you!

New Book Available from Church Services in October!



DON'T BE AFRAID ANYMORE

The Story of Reverend Troy Perry and The Metropolitan Community Churches by Reverend Troy D. Perry with Thomas L.P. Swicegood

Published by St. Martin's Press, New York

Retail Price: $19.95 (U.S.)

The long-awaited new book by Troy Perry, the author of the best-selling THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD AND HE KNOWS I'M GAY!

ADVANCED ORDER SPECIAL FROM UFMCC CHURCH SERVICES
LIMITED SUPPLY!
Single Copies 20% Discount -- $17.95 (plus postage)
Multiple Copies to UFMCC Churches 40% Discount (5 or more!)
(Orders from California add 6.75% Sales Tax)

ORDER FORM

NAME/ORGANIZATION _____
STREET ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____
STATE/PROVINCE _____ **ZIP/POSTAL CODE** _____
COUNTRY _____ **TELEPHONE** _____

Please send _____# of Books { } Check Enclosed Check or Money Order #____
{ } Mastercard or VISA # _____ **Exp Date** _____
Cardholders Signature _____ **(Bankcard add 4% to total)**

[For Churches: Authorized Signatures - Two signatures required for church order]
Pastor/Pastoral Leader _____
Board of Directors Member _____

MCC Toronto, Canada Shows Its Pride

Experience the power of positive people -
of sisters and brothers who
affirm each person's dignity.
Let the Spirit in your heart
break dividing walls apart,
as we celebrate, united, our diversity.
Experience the power of positive people -
of people who aren't afraid to be.
Come to worship, sing and pray;
come enjoy a brighter day.
Experience the power of MCC.
(copyright 1990, Danny Ray
All Rights Reserved)

Thousands of onlookers cheered and applauded as the award winning float of MCC Toronto went by in the Lesbian and Gay Pride Day parade, June 24, 1990. "Come Out of Your Cocoon...And Experience The Power of Positive People," proclaimed the float, brightly decorated with [illegible]-colored rainbows and garlands of flowers. On a [illegible] flatbed, covered in sombre layers of black cloth, there stood a lone tree. A glistening cocoon hung from a branch, with just part of a human face showing as the shell began to unravel. Around a luminescent orb, sparkling in silver and gold, were three life-size human figures. The first stood with wings beginning to unfold, starring deep into the sphere. The second figure seemed to be taking a tentative first step, proudly spreading its wings. The third, radiating in new-found power and splendour, was in full flight, stretching out toward the crowds.

Over one hundred enthusiastic paraders marched and danced behind the float, waving banners and flags that advertised the various groups and activities happening in the church. Adding to the enthusiasm was the song, "The Power of Positive People," especially written for the occasion by Rev. Ray, and recorded by the choir.

The Pride Award was given for the float "that conveys in an artistic manner, Lesbian and Gay Pride." Michael McGaraughty, parade coordinator, wrote to MCC Toronto and said, "The response of the onlookers to your float must have been an incredible boost to your spirits. The people dancing around your float throughout the parade proves the success of the hard work that you put [illegible] the construction of your float. Congratulations on the Award, it was well deserved. I can only hope that you will be able to top yourselves next year!"

Just watch us!

NEEDED: Field Staff for Ecumenical Witness and Ministry

Job Description: This individual must be self-motivated, creative, able to work without benefit of personal paid staff and must know how to organize volunteers across broad geographic areas. This person must be willing and able to travel extensively and often and be able to communicate non-judgementally cross-culturally and theologically. The person must be diplomatic but firm and know when to be diplomatic or firm; able to identify homophobic strategies; able to be flexible and change own strategy at a moment's notice.

Duties: Develop and implement UFMCC's denominational ecumenical/interfaith programming under the direction of the UFMCC Board of Elders, specifically the Chief Ecumenical Officer.

1. Administration: Keep files and records; do bi-annual reports to General Council; develop budget; work with UFMCC administration on finances; keep archival records.

2. Program Development: Build relationship between UFMCC and religious leadership from other denominations and ecumenical/interfaith bodies. Plan, strategize and develop programming that raises UFMCC consciousness to the importance of ecumencial/interfaith involvements and when useful and appropriate enlist cooperation with other UFMCC programs and other religious bodies. Develop and chair an international network of ecumenical officers; provide supervision and act as consultant to national/regional ecumencial officers throughout UFMCC.

3. Program Implementation: Attend General Council, General Conference and when appropriate, District Conferences for reporting and presentation. Attend NCCC General Board Meetings and significant WCC activities; attend local/regional/national/international/ecumenical/interfaith events as budget and priorities permit. Set up and arrange housing, travel and per diem for these events for self and UFMCC participants.

Be prepared to meet with the press at a moment's notice and to write press releases, statements, documents without luxury of advance notice. Some journalistic expertise is required in reporting to UFMCC through a newsletter. Some writing will be required for publication in other publications and journals. Prepare a newsletter and brochure of UFMCC ecumenical/interfaith activities as budget permits.

This is a half time position, salary $13,740/year. Starting Jan. 1, 1990. It is preferable that the staff person is located in Los Angeles. The staff person should be prepared to travel to Australia in February for the World Council of Churches. Please send your resume along with 3 references to Mr. Ravi Verma, Director of Administration, UFMCC 5300 Santa Monica Blvd #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

Gay & Lesbian Youth

San Jose State University Office of Continuing Education will offer a class this fall for teachers, counselors, administrators, and family members on "The Hidden Minority In Our Schools: Gay and Lesbian Youth".

Gay, lesbian and bi-sexual children under the age of 18 account for 600,000 of California's at-risk youth. In this one day seminar on Saturday, October 13, 1990 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm you will explore their fears about homosexuality and will learn about the verbal, psychological, and physical abuse homosexual youth experience while growing up. Panels of 1) parents, 2) lesbian/gay students, 3) lesbian/gay teachers, and 4) other community representatives will discuss a wide range of critical issues.

The seminar meets on the San Jose University campus and is open to all adults. You do not have to be a regular University student to participate. The seminar fee is $64, and you should bring a sack lunch to class.

For more information, call (408) 924-2600 or 924-2601 or write to: Gay and Lesbian Youth Education, Office of Continuing Education, San Jose State University San Jose, CA 95192-0135.

ATTENTION CLERGY!!

Yes, the time is upon us to begin preparing Initial Licensure and Relicensure applications for the 1991 Cycle. Those clergy who are due for Relicensure are those who are not Ordained and were Intially Licensed in 1990 and those who were last licensed in 1989. This will also apply to those Clergy currently on Leave of Absence or Sabbatical. A letter will be sent to you indicating your need to apply.

All of the Initial Licensure and Relicensure applications and their related forms were revised in 1988 and reprinted in the 1990 Clergy Manual. Please be sure that the applications you are submitting are the new forms. If you do not have these forms, they are available in the "1990 Clergy Manual" available from Church Services. (Old Application forms WILL NOT be accepted.)

The evaluation and recommendation forms must be returned to the applicant by the evaluating person. DO NOT HAVE THESE FORWARDED TO THE CCCC OFFICE OR CHAIR. Please make sure your evaluators are so informed. (Any forms forwarded ahead of an application will be sent back to the applicant, possibly causing a failure to meet the deadline.) These must be included in the application package sent in by the applicant. Please distribute these to your evaluators giving them sufficient time to act and respond in time for you to meet the March 1st deadline!

The application must be bound, (paper clips don't count!) preferably in order (follow the page numbers and checklist found in the Clergy Manual). The ORIGINAL and three copies must be sent to the C.C.C.C. Office, postmarked by March 1st.

"What does the C.C.C.C. require for transcripts?" is a frequently asked question often compounded by the fact that we may already have some on file for you. Initial Licensure applicants must document their prerequisite credit hours as well as proficiency courses. Relicensure and Ordination applicants need only document courses taken since their last (re)licensure. The applications state an official transcript must be included. However, this is only necessary when we do not already have it. The official (if applicable) transcript must be included with the original application. All four copies of the application must include copies of the transcript(s), (even if they are already on file).

Initial Licensure applicants must also apply for and receive academic and experiential certification prior to application for licensure. All academic and experiential work should be completed by January 1st to facilitate evaluations and certifications. All applications for Certification must be postmarked by January 1st.

This Licensure Cycle is also an Ordination Cycle. Those Licensed clergy who have been licensed minimally for three years are eligible for Ordination. Ordination Interviews will be held the week prior to General Conference in Phoenix, AZ (July 8-12). The 1990 Clergy Manual contains the necessary forms and applications and includes details on the procedures. These applications are also due to the CCCC office postmarked by March 1st.

The 1990 Clergy Status Forms will be mailed to all Fellowship clergy during the first week of November. Please remember that this is certifying your ministry for the 1990 calendar year for both credentialing and pensioning purposes. This must be returned to the CCCC Office in Los Angeles by Jan 1st. Failure to return this form will result in immediate "Inactive Status" for 1990 and following and, for U.S. Clergy, ineligibility in the Pension Plan for the same years.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gene Van Horn at the CCCC Office, (213) 464-5100.